

FEDERATION BACKS SWITCHMEN'S STRIKE

Official Statement by Gompers Gives Delicate Situation a New Phase.

MAY MEAN TIE-UP OF MANY OTHER ROADS

Shortage of Coal Supply in the Midst of Northwest Winter Reported Imminent.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 10.—The American Federation of Labor will support the railroad switchmen on strike in the northwest to the extent of its powers.

This announcement was made today by Samuel Gompers, president of the Federation, after an extended conference with Frank Hawley, president of the American Switchmen's union. It is understood to mean that if railroad officials do not concede to the demands of the strikers, trouble may spread, until it involves other great labor organizations in the railway field.

Plain Declaration.

"We will support the switchmen to the extent of our ability, both financially and morally."

Such was the declaration of Mr. Gompers at the close of his conference with Mr. Hawley. The labor leader refused to state whether this meant an extension of the strike, but he asserted that, after a full investigation, he was satisfied that the demands of the strikers were just, and that they merited and would receive the support of all unions.

Mr. Hawley was jubilant over the decision of Mr. Gompers. He ridiculed the public assertions of railroad officials that the strike was practically ended, and said:

"They cannot beat us, now that the Federation of Labor is behind us."

Affects Coal Supply.

According to Mr. Hawley, a shortage in the coal supply in the northwest is imminent on account of the strike. He said such a shortage already was apparent in Minneapolis, where, he said, public schools are suffering from a lack of fuel.

"I am sorry," said the switchmen's chief, "that a tie-up in business must result, but when we are fighting for our rights we cannot afford to consider these things."

SWITCHMEN EXPECT NO SYMPATHETIC STRIKE

ST. PAUL, Dec. 10.—It is not thought at local strike headquarters that a sympathetic strike of allied railroad orders of the American Federation of Labor will result from the conference between President Samuel Gompers and F. T. Hawley, president of the Switchmen's Union of North America at Cincinnati today.

"My interpretation of the message from Cincinnati is that the American Federation of Labor has offered every assistance expected by Mr. Hawley in behalf of the switchmen," said D. A. Harshberger, third vice president of the Switchmen's union, tonight.

"We have said," replied Mr. Harshberger, "that we are not agitating or anticipating any sympathetic strike. We have, however, expected the moral and financial support of the different organizations if the strike is prolonged to a great length."

Telegrams received at strike headquarters tonight indicate that everything is favorable to the strikers from here to the coast. The state railroad commission has received thirty letters from as many cities and villages regarding their coal supply and other needed conditions, but so far, Warren, Minn., is the only town that shows immediate distress. That town reported enough coal to last two or three days.

The matter was taken up with the railroads and relief was promised at once.

ZELAYA GIVES OUT SPICY INTERVIEW

Continued from Page One.

to all parties and have submitted the name of Jose Madriz, judge of the Carriage court.

"I hope this will obviate the necessity for a favorable intervention, which would be intensely distasteful to all Latin-American. I am informed that it is the intention of the United States to prevent my leaving Nicaragua. I do not believe this is true."

Estrada May Take Helm.

It is reported that the revolutionists will reject Senor Madriz as Zelaya's successor, and insist on General Estrada assuming the presidency, declaring that the United States has promised to furnish 2000 marines at Bluefields to bring about his success.

"The hostilities between the United States," continued Zelaya, "is due to the machinations of Senor Cabrera, president of Guatemala, whom I refused in 1906 to join in an offensive and defensive alliance of Central America against Mexico, and thereby thwarted his efforts to establish a virtual dictatorship in Central America. Since then Cabrera has pursued me with relentless enmity, poisoning the public mind against me."

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